CHAPTER LXII:
DECLARATION
OF WAR

WE SHAN'T BE ABLE TO HEAD OUT SO FREELY LIKE THIS!

OOH, I CANNOT STAND IT...

WHAT AN UNSETTLING TALE...

YOU'VE BARELY SAID A THING, ARE YOU IN LOW SPIRITS...

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL NERO?

YOUR COMPLEXION IS POOR TOO...

...

SO HE WON'T BE AMONGST THEM EH.

THEY HAVE.

THEY WERE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO JAIL BY THE ELITE OF THE PRAETORIAN GUARD...

STILL...

HAVE THE PRISONERS BEEN FULLY TRANSFERRED YET, CASSANDRA?

WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO DISCUSS.

MOTHER!

WE CAN CONTINUE IT IN MY ROOM.

IS THAT SO, VERY WELL THEN.

GO AHEAD, TALK.

WHAT IS IT? DON'T STAND ON CEREMONY...

NO, IT IS A PRIVATE MATTER.

IT WOULD BE AN OFFENSE TO DISCUSS IT HERE.

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I'D CHANGED MY PERFUME...

YET IT DOES NOT SEEM AS THOUGH MY FORTUNE IS IMPROVING.

WHAT A DULL LIFE THIS IS.

I'M MERELY AN ORNAMENT.

FOREVER...

I AM SIMPLY DECORATIVE, NEVER MEANT TO DRAW ATTENTION...

THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF YOUR TRAINING WILL BE THE SOLE FACTORS WHICH SEPARATE VICTORY FROM DEFEAT!

IN A REAL FIGHT YOU CANNOT HOPE FOR GOOD FORTUNE.

MOVE BEFORE EVEN PRAYING TO GOD.

SHARPEN YOURSELF TO THE POINT OF OMNIPOTENCE!

HE, AND ONLY HE, WHO DOES HIS UTMOST TO THE END CAN SEIZE OPPORTUNITY!

THAT IS A TRUTH OF CONFLICTS FAR AND WIDE!

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PREPARE, THE ROUTE TO VICTORY WILL REMAIN CLOSED!

THAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL NEVER REVEAL THESE MATTERS!

PROMISE ME...

BLIND BELIEF, CORRUPTION, PLOTS...

THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD IS TRULY ROTTEN...

FLED FROM HIS MAJESTY COULD UNDERSTAND.

NOT THAT YOU WHO...

IS THERE WORTH IN GIVING UP ONE'S LIFE FOR LOYALTY?

THERE IS NO WAY I COULD!

YET I CANNOT FLEE FROM HERE.

UGH.

UGH.

UGH.

UGH.

MUG-UUUH...

GUH...

NBUUH.

DO YOU INTEND TO CRUSH YOUR COMRADE DURING PRACTICE?!

UNHAND HIM RUSKA!

YOU CAN LET YOURSELF BE TAKEN BY WORTH-LESS, IDLE THOUGHTS?

IS PRACTICE WITH A WEAKER OPPONENT SO DULL THAT...

SO YOU LOST CONCEN-TRATION.

WAS IT SOME-THING ABOUT YESTER-DAY?

I'M SORRY...

HAAH.

HAAH.

HAAH.

STOP THIS.

N... NO...

YOU'LL FIND IT LEADS TO THE DULLING OF YOUR MOMENTUM.

YOU WILL REMAIN SECOND RATE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

ISN'T IT ONLY...

WOMEN WHO FIND THEMSELVES WHOLLY TROUBLED BY SUCH TRIFLES?

IDLE?!

WORTH-LESS...

CAN LET SUCH BRASH REMARKS GO!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT I...

HOW ABOUT YOU FIGHT ME!

IN THAT CASE COMMANDER...

!

MY STATUS AS SECOND RATE SHOULD BE ALL THE CLEARER TO SEE!

IF I GO AGAINST A SUPERIOR FIGHTER SUCH AS YOURSELF...

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

RUSKA!

WHAT BABBLE.

HMPH...

CALL UPON US...

I FIGURED THAT THIS DAY WOULD, INEVITABLY...

BUT WHY NOW?

RUSKA...

SURE THING.

I NOMINATE THAT THIS MARK THE END OF OUR HALF-HEARTED PRACTICE SESSION.

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS CAUSED...

THIS IRRITATED IMPATIENCE OF YOURS?

THEY ARE TWO LIONS WHO SHARE THE SAME BLOOD.

I KNEW THAT...

A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THEM COULD NOT BE AVOIDED.

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"

BEGIN!

THE WINNER SEEMS OBVIOUS BUT...

IF IT'S RUSKA...

IT'S LIKE A TIGER AND A HOUND...!

MM...

WITH THEM FACING EACH OTHER THE DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE IS OVERWHELMING!

THUMP.

THE SEVERE BLOODLUST PRICKLES THE SKIN.

THE FIGHTING SPIRIT FILLING THIS PLACE IS MEZMERISING!

THUMP.

THERE IS NO FIGHTER OUT THERE WHO COULD SUPRESS THE BEATING OF THEIR CHEST HERE.

THUMP.

ONE SEES AN INCOMPLETE GENIUS SHOWING OFF THEIR BOTTOMLESS TALENT.

EACH TIME HE FIGHTS...

THUMP.

IS HE ALREADY MASTERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN HIS CREATOR?

THUMP.

THUMP.

THUMP.

STRIKE!

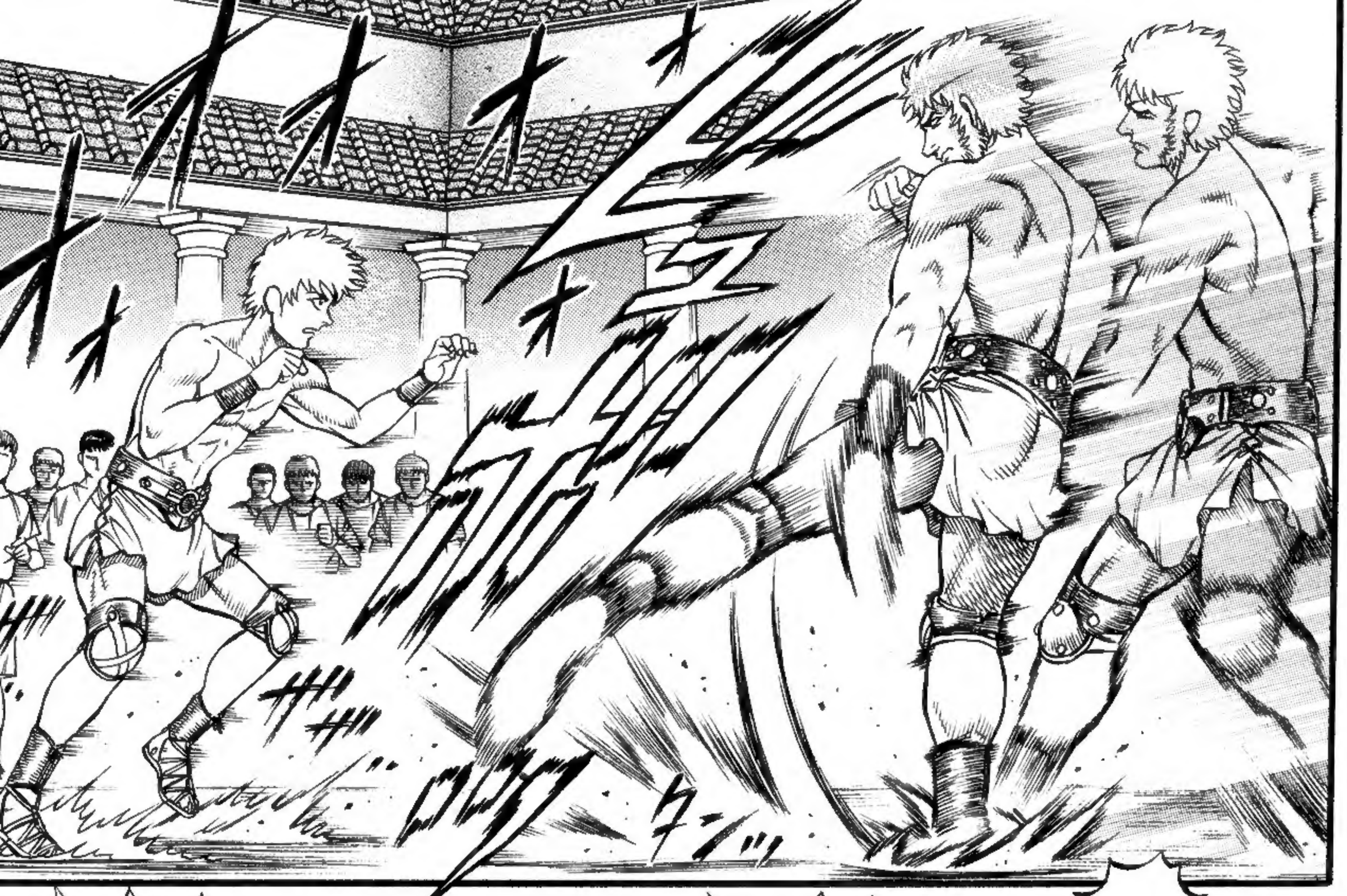
GO...

THUMP.

!

ATTACK!

SWISH.



H...

HE WENT FOR A KICK TO THE CROTCH AND A POKE TO THE EYES!

G... GROSS!

HE WAS ACTUALLY TRYING TO GET THE COMMANDER'S REMAINING EYE!

W... WASN'T THIS MEANT TO BE A PRACTICE FIGHT?

HE IMMEDIATLEY OPENED WITH A BANNED MOVE.

TO TRY SUCH A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE COMMANDER...

IT'S TOO LATE NOW...

ARE YOU INSANE RUSKA?! STOP THIS!

WILL THIS DO, RUSKA...

KU...

KUKU-KU...

HE CROSSED THE LINE RIGHT FROM THE OUTSET!

THIS IS BAD, THIS IS REALLY BAD.

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RUSKA!

WILL THIS DO?

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THE LION'S CANNIBALIZATION BEGINS!

I CAN HARDLY PULL BACK NOW!

FOR BETTER OR WORSE...

YOU NOVICE!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, THEN GO AHEAD!

OOOH!